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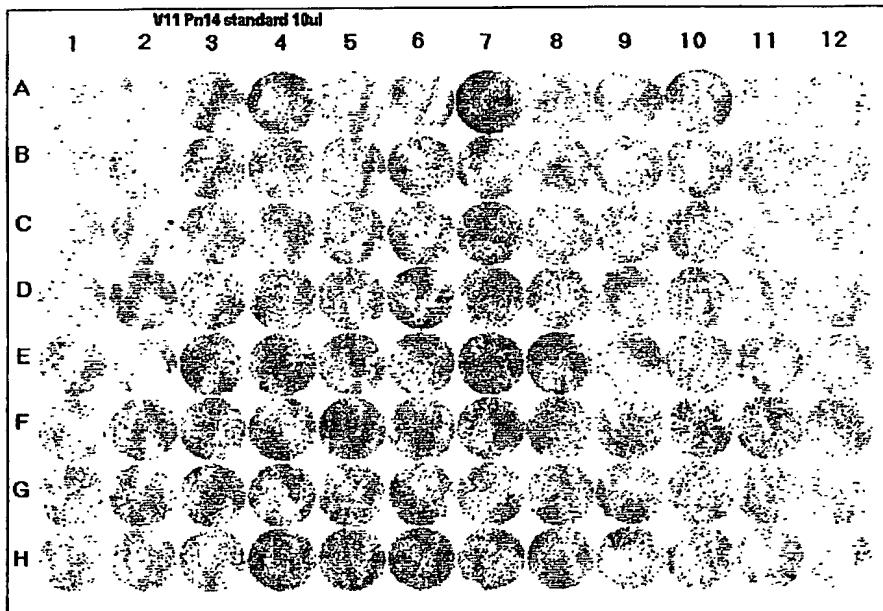
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For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: NOVEL PROCEDURE FOR GROWTH, IMAGING, AND ENUMERATION OF MICROBIAL COLONIES FOR SEROLOGICAL OR SCREENING ASSAYS



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(57) Abstract: A novel method is provided, for use within serological or screening assays, wherein microbial colonies are grown on filter membranes in multi-well plates. This process enables the colonies to be stained, imaged, and counted automatically using such automated systems as, e.g., computer and video-based imaging systems.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US03/23928

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) : C12Q 1/02, 1/04, 1/18; C12M 1/12, 1/18; C12N 1/20, 11/02
 US CL : 435/29, 32, 34, 177, 252.1, 288.4, 297.5

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S. : 435/29, 32, 34, 177, 252.1, 288.4, 297.5

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched
 NONE

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)
 Please See Continuation Sheet

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	US 6,365,368 B1 (MINNICH et al) 02 April 2002 (02.04.2002), see column 2, lines 27-64 and column 4, lines 28-48.	1-63
Y	WO 01/59157 A2 (MILLIPORE CORPORATION) 16 August 2001 (16.08.2001), see the abstract and Figure 1.	1-63
Y, P	US 2002/0192811 A1 (PITT et al) 19 December 2002 (19.12.2002), see pages 1-2, section 0009.	1, 31, 61
Y, P	US 2003/0082516 A1 (STRAUS, D.) 01 May 2003 (01.05.2003), see entire document.	1-63

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

See patent family annex.

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"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
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"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	"&" document member of the same patent family
"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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Continuation of B. FIELDS SEARCHED Item 3:
HCAPLUS, MEDLINE, WPIDS, USPAT, EPAB, JPAB, PGPUBS
search terms: multi-well, plate, filter, membrane, enumeration, microbe